Archaeological Objects

Background

Luas Cherrywood is the 7.5km extension of the Luas Green Line (currently operating between St Stephen's Green and Sandyford) to Brides Glen. There are 9 new stops along this route.

Railway Procurement Agency carried out a considerable amount of archaeological investigation in advance and during construction of Luas Cherrywood providing a unique opportunity to gain an insight into the past settlement and history of the area.

Between May and September 2006 archaeological testing was carried out in advance of construction by CRDS Ltd who identified new significant archaeology sites at three locations. One possible prehistoric site, located in Brennanstown, was preserved in situ or avoided and two sites, located in Murphystown and Laughanstown, were archaeologically excavated and recorded by CRDS Ltd between October and December 2006. A metal detection survey was also carried out at the Laughanstown site due to its close proximity to an 18th century military camp. Ground disturbance works associated with Luas construction were monitored by an archaeologist from CRDS Ltd between March and October 2007. As a result, one further significant prehistoric site was identified and excavated at Brennanstown.

All of these archaeological investigations were carried out on behalf of Railway Procurement Agency. If you are interested in learning about Luas Cherrywood archaeology finds and discoveries in greater detail please visit our website where you can download a copy of all professional reports generated as a result of the above works at the following link: http://www.rpa.ie/en/rpa/archaeology/Pages/LuasCherrywood.aspx

Found during archaeological investigations carried out prior to and during the construction of Luas Cherrywood

LUAS CHERRYWOOD

UNDER THE TRACKS

Archaeological Discoveries

Photos 1-7 CRDS Ltd

Excavation plan, Murphystown (Image CRDS Ltd)

Recording an archaeology site at Laughanstown (Photo CRDS Ltd)

UNDER THE TRACKS

Recording an archaeology site at Laughanstown (Photo CRDS Ltd)

Recording an archaeology site at Laughanstown (Photo CRDS Ltd)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEATURES OF BIRMINGHAM (Photo BMN)

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Pictured to the left (1-4) are some of the Post-medieval finds retrieved from the Laughanstown and Murphystown sites:

1. A group of 18th century musket balls, the smaller ones are possibly from a pistol. Some show evidence of having been fired.

2. Inscribed metal object, dating to the 18th century, associated with the military camp in Laughanstown.

3. Copper alloy dagger dating to 1794, retrieved from beneath a fairly modern garden enclosure or ‘Ha-Ha’ ditch in Murphystown.

Pictured to the right (5-8) are some of the Neolithic worked lithics or stone tools retrieved from the prehistoric site at Laughanstown (described overleaf):

5. A small simple flint blade.

6. A fine example of a flint side scraper. This kind of tool was used for general domestic chores such as food and animal hide preparation as well as more specialised tasks such as bone carving and metal working.

7. A stone knife.

8. A group of 18th century musket balls, the smaller ones are possibly from a pistol. Some show evidence of having been fired.

9. A fine example of a flint side scraper.

10. A flint core with several flake scars evident.

11. A fine example of a flint side scraper.

12. A group of 18th century musket balls, the smaller ones are possibly from a pistol. Some show evidence of having been fired.
Excavations in the townland of Brennanstown have revealed a rich prehistoric record. Evidence identified as part of the Luas Cherrywood archaeological investigations indicates further prehistoric human settlement in Laughanstown and Brennanstown from the Late Neolithic through to the Late Iron Age (c. 2500BC to 400AD). This comprised the remains of two possible structures or homesteads, located 60m apart which were represented by a concentration of daub and posthole remains. They were centred on an open space, with the postholes and other features indicating a courtyard layout, with the houses sharing a central entrance way and lower stone thresholds. Both houses were contemporary with the site excavated at Brennanstown, evidence of similar Late Neolithic Bronze Age / Iron Age pottery, exemplifying the remains of seven vessels. A range of stone tools including stone and flint axes, a small rubbing stone and flint spall (where flint was detached) were recovered and evidence of flint knapping, the process of forming stone tools, was identified in the vicinity of the possible structures. The surrounding landscape as evidenced by numerous archaeological sites and finds documents over the years the prehistoric building settlement sites and burial mounds. Clear is the evidence of repeatedly built / abandoned / rebuilt sites relating to three phases of prehistory: Neolithic / Bronze Age (c. 3000BC to 1700BC) and Early Bronze Age (c. 1700BC to 1200BC). Two radiocarbon dates were obtained from the two Bronze Age / Iron Age sites and partial results indicate that the site was occupied during the Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age (600 BC - 400 AD). Further radiocarbon dates from near the surveyed site were contemporaneous with the site excavated at Brennanstown, evidenced by similar Late Bronze Age / Early Iron Age pottery fragments, exemplifying the remains of seven vessels. A range of stone tools including stone and flint axes and flint spall (where flint was detached) were recovered and evidence of flint knapping, the process of forming stone tools, was identified in the vicinity of the possible structures.

Two radiocarbon dates were obtained from the prehistoric settlement at Laughanstown. The site was occupied during the Late Neolithic (c. 3000BC) and the earliest phase of activity at this site is characterised by the remains of a large open area. Postholes and other evidence indicate the remains of two possible structures or homesteads, located 60m apart which were represented by a concentration of daub and posthole remains. This evidence is consistent with the site excavated at Brennanstown, and it is likely that they date to the same period. The site is likely to be a representative of a larger area of prehistoric settlement activity in this part of the site, and it is likely that further evidence of this activity is present to the north of the site. This area of the site was excavated to a depth of 1m and the remains of a large open area, with the postholes and other features indicating a courtyard layout, were recorded. This evidence is consistent with the site excavated at Brennanstown, and it is likely that they are of similar date.

The excavations in the townland of Brennanstown have revealed a rich prehistoric record. Evidence identified as part of the Luas Cherrywood archaeological investigations indicates further prehistoric human settlement in Laughanstown and Brennanstown from the Late Neolithic through to the Late Iron Age (c. 2500BC to 400AD). This comprised the remains of two possible structures or homesteads, located 60m apart which were represented by a concentration of daub and posthole remains. They were centred on an open space, with the postholes and other features indicating a courtyard layout, with the houses sharing a central entrance way and lower stone thresholds. Both houses were contemporary with the site excavated at Brennanstown, evidence of similar Late Neolithic Bronze Age / Iron Age pottery, exemplifying the remains of seven vessels. A range of stone tools including stone and flint axes, a small rubbing stone and flint spall (where flint was detached) were recovered and evidence of flint knapping, the process of forming stone tools, was identified in the vicinity of the possible structures.